



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 410

February Session, 2008

Substitute House Bill No. 5902

House of Representatives, April 3, 2008

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. SAYERS, P. of the 60th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING HOSPITAL STAFFING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section:

3 (1) "Department" means the Department of Public Health; and

4 (2) "Hospital" means an establishment for the lodging, care and
5 treatment of persons suffering from disease or other abnormal physical
6 or mental conditions and includes inpatient psychiatric services in
7 general hospitals.

8 (b) On and after July 1, 2009, each hospital licensed by the
9 department pursuant to chapter 368v of the general statutes shall, as a
10 condition of continued licensure, submit to the department a
11 prospective nurse staffing plan with a written certification that the
12 nurse staffing plan is sufficient to provide adequate and appropriate
13 delivery of health care services to patients in the ensuing period of

14 licensure. Such plan shall promote a collaborative practice in the
15 hospital that enhances patient care and the level of services provided
16 by nurses and other members of the hospital's patient care team.

17 (c) Each hospital shall establish a hospital staffing committee to
18 assist in the preparation of the nurse staffing plan required pursuant to
19 subsection (b) of this section. Registered nurses employed by the
20 hospital to provide direct patient care shall account for not less than
21 fifty per cent of the membership of each hospital's staffing committee.
22 Each hospital, in collaboration with its staffing committee, shall
23 develop and implement the prospective nurse staffing plan. Such plan
24 shall: (1) Include the minimum professional skill mix for each patient
25 care unit in the hospital, including, but not limited to, inpatient
26 services, critical care and the emergency department; (2) identify the
27 hospital's employment practices concerning the use of temporary and
28 traveling nurses; (3) set forth the level of administrative staffing in
29 each patient care unit of the hospital that ensures direct care staff are
30 not utilized for administrative functions; (4) set forth the hospital's
31 process for internal review of the nurse staffing plan; (5) identify
32 collective bargaining agreements that the hospital is a party to and
33 certify the hospital's compliance with such agreements; and (6) include
34 the hospital's mechanism of obtaining input from direct care staff,
35 including nurses and other members of the hospital's patient care
36 team, in the development of a nurse staffing plan.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2008	New section

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

It is anticipated that both the Department of Public Health and the John Dempsey Hospital at the University of Connecticut Health Center will be able to accommodate various duties specified within this bill within each agency's normally budgeted resources.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5902*****AN ACT CONCERNING HOSPITAL STAFFING.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires hospitals to establish nurse staffing plans as a condition of their continued licensure by the Department of Public Health (DPH). Beginning July 1, 2009, each licensed hospital must provide DPH with a prospective nurse staffing plan along with a written certification that it is sufficient to provide adequate and appropriate patient health care services in the ensuing licensure period.

The plan must promote collaborative practice in the hospital that improves patient care and the level of services provided by nurses and other hospital patient care team members.

Also, the bill requires each hospital to establish a staffing committee to assist in preparing the nurse staffing plan. The hospital, in collaboration with the committee, must develop and implement the plan.

“Hospital” means an establishment for the lodging, care, and treatment of persons suffering from disease or other abnormal physical or mental conditions and includes inpatient psychiatric services in general hospitals.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2008

NURSE STAFFING PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The bill requires registered nurses providing direct patient care at the hospital to make up at least 50% of the staffing committee’s

membership.

The nurse staffing plan must:

1. include the minimum professional skill mix for each patient care unit in the hospital, including inpatient services, critical care, and the emergency department;
2. identify the hospital's employment practices on using temporary and traveling nurses;
3. establish the level of administrative staffing in each patient care unit that ensures that direct patient care staff are not used for administrative functions;
4. describe the hospital's process for internal review of the plan;
5. identify collective bargaining agreements and certify hospital compliance with them; and
6. include the hospital's method for obtaining the involvement of hospital's direct care staff in developing the plan.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 30 Nay 0 (03/17/2008)